

XISTANCE

STRAIGHT EDGE FANZINE - NORTH 99 WEST 5905 OXFORD DRIVE - CEDARBURG, WI 53012
ISSUE NUMBER ONE

VERSION 1.1

One Dollar

UNBROKEN

Victory Records

Mean Season

Everlast

XXX XISTANCE XXX

STRAIGHTEDGE FANZINE

Congratulations... You are one of the privileged few to own my zine. It is hard to believe that I am finally done with issue one! I can only hope to have enough energy to continue on with the zine. I guess the fact is that if you continue to buy it I will continue to do it. I am sorry this zine took so long. I have been compiling pictures since June of '93 and I am glad to be able to release it now on January 15, 1994. I hope this makes your new year brighter. I doubt that. Well read through the zine while taking a shit right after school (that is what I do), or waiting for the bus or whenever you got the time. Thanks for buying it and keep the edge with it.

Greetings To...

Anthony, Frank - Burn It Down, Jim - StormTrooper, Brian - SnakeEyes, Jeff - Persist, Tim - SxE as Fuck, Jody - Everlast, Chad - Fore Go, Aaron & Colin - Mean Season, Tony - Victory, Joe - Release, Jason - FailSafe, Marti - Chitown, Shane - PP Rec, Iain - Stability, and all my friends Doug, Todd, Jared, Jim, Dan, and the hardline Chicks, oh yeah Steve H.

Submissions - Please submit ads, writings, ANYTHING to me at my address.

Distribution - Here is my rates for distribution: 10 zines for \$8.00

20 zines for \$15.00

I am willing to trade my zine for yours at a 1 to 1 ratio. If you send me 10 zines I will send you 10 zines.

International - For future issues the cost of international issues will be \$2.50.

SHIRTS - Look for Xistance shirts out in spring. They will cost \$8.00.

X PERSIST X
straightedge journal.



issue three with: DROWN, EDGEWISE, GUILT, and STRIFE. \$2-n.america / \$3-elsewhere. PERSIST straightedge shirts: \$10-n.america / \$13-elsewhere. issue 2.5 for 1 stamp/irc. please make all checks payable to jeff johns. issues one and two are still available, write for info. persist / p.o. box 756 / westmont, il / 60559. XXX.

**PRESSURE
X POINT X
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hard X times

straight edge fanzine

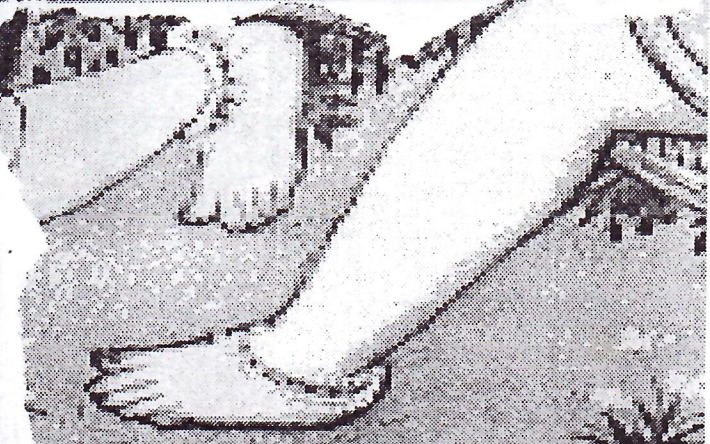
not for the weak Out on Sept. 15

Interviews w/ Undertow, Earth

Crisis and others \$2.00 Pfd.

WANTED! People to trade ads with, scene reports of hardcore bands, photos, vegan info, music for review, and any other worthwhile contributions. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

she



THING T



All Photos By: John Xistance

groundwork-

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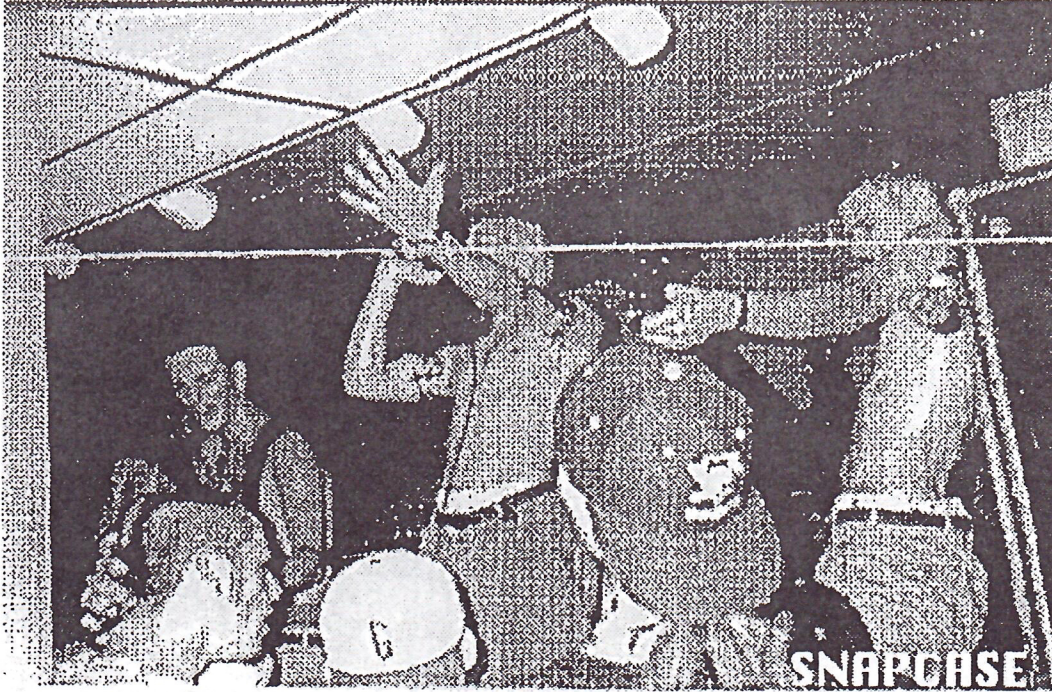
Next:

RESTRAIN 7"
And
EVERLAST 7"

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CHAPTER records
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VIEW POINT FANZINE



ISSUE #1

INTERVIEWS WITH:
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AND
TONY VICTORY.

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(out soon)
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SHIRTS

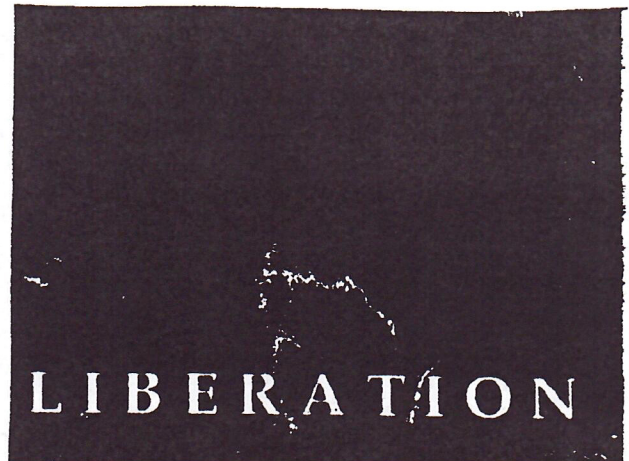
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- \$11.00 ppd. "IF YOU'RE NOT NOW, YOU NEVER WERE"
- \$11.00 ppd. "VEGETARIAN"
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IF YOU'RE NOT NOW, YOU NEVER WERE
XX STRAIGHT EDGE XX
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EVEN THE SCORE



FANZINE

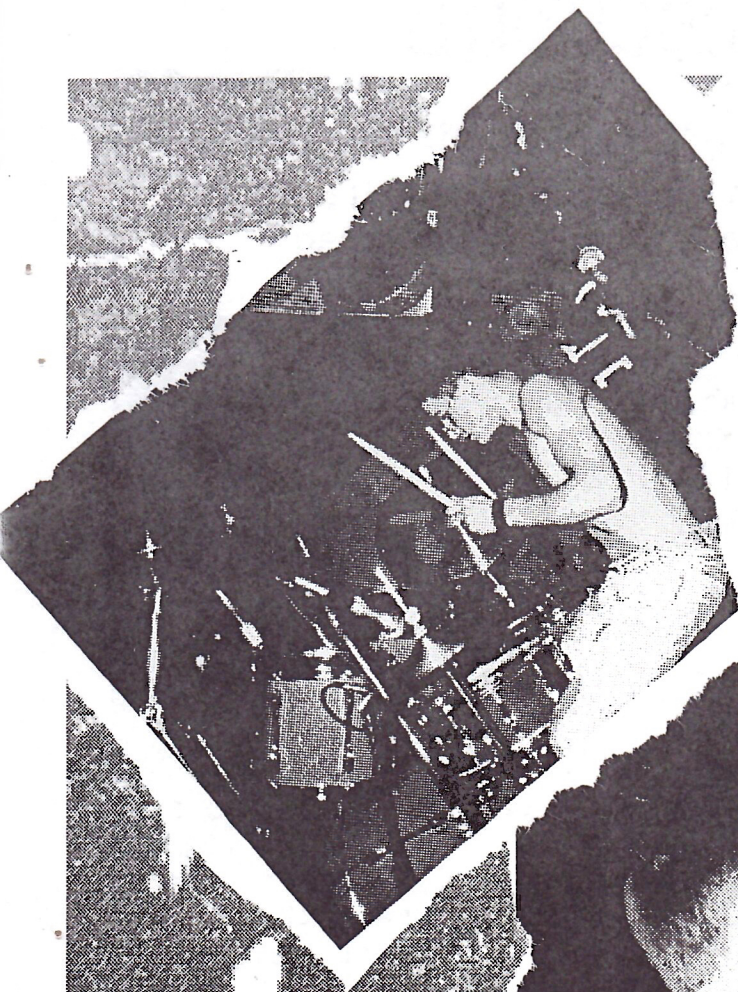
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STRAIGHT EDGE



ED GERVASE

Victory Records

This interview was done through the mail in the summer so it is a bit old. Recently Even Score has reunited and Victory has released 'FIRESTORM'.

X: IS there anything being released in the near future from Victory Records?

TB: August 25, 1993: Earth Crisis 'Firestorm' 7"/CDep
Fall/Winter 1993: Snapcase 'Another's Life' LP/CD/CS
Possibly an LP with Strife in the new year ('94)

X: How did Earth Crisis get onto your label?

TB: Earth Crisis sent me a tape. I liked it and I signed them to Victory.

X: Earth Crisis's summer tour got a little screwed up, who is actually to blame?

TB: The guy who originally booked their tour was also doing tours for a bunch of other bands and he simply bit off more than he could chew. It wasn't done out of maliciousness, simply inexperience. Basically, a lot of the dates fell through and the booking agent assumed more than he should of. The guy who book the tour remains a good, longtime friend of mine and there are no hard feelings between him and Earth Crisis.

X: What is your reaction to 'Burn It Down' number two's cover of you with a nice little slogan at the bottom? Are you still straightedge?

TB: It doesn't bother me at all, actually I was flattered. Frank, the guy who does that zine is a friend of mine. I am straightedge and vegan.

RECORDS

X: Do you have any suggestions for Mike H. (New Age Records) and his mail order situation?

TB: Mike's an old friend. I have no idea what his mail order situation is. I would assume that he's fast with it though.

SID

LIFE CYCLE- Essence

FACE VALUE- Someday

IN

X: Does the thought of starting another band come to your mind at times?

TB: Yes, but at the same time I want to have as much time as possible for the label.

05

X: What is your reaction to the somewhat violent dancing?

TB: I don't think it's very violent. Sure, kids go off (especially everyone in Chicago) but it's not done to hurt anyone, and there is a true sense of unity in the Chicago scene, so I think you could call it positive aggression.

CONFRONT- One Life Drug Free
MEANSTREAK- Word

X: What do you thing about the Chicks Up Front Posse' and Grrl Edge?

TB: The who? Girls belong in hardcore just as much as anyone else, I don't really understand the debate because I've always felt this. Lets see some all female hardcore bands! (And I'm not talking about L7, Tribe 8, or Bikini Kill.)

X: Were you involved with the Billingsgate reunion show?

TB: No, the Billingsgate guys came up with that on their own. I have nothing to do with it, but it will be fun.

X: Where do you think hardcore is headed these days?

TB: It's hard to say, but it won't die, it will only get bigger. There's a lot of new people getting involved with new ideas and aspirations.

V

VICTORY



RECORDS

P.O. Box 146546

Chicago, IL.

60614

Send SASE for Catalog

RE

STRAIGHT EDGE AS FUCK.



ISSUE #1 - out now: a page or so of REVIEWS,
ADS, GIRL X EDGE. #2 - w/ interview: DAVE INDECISION
out soon! send a SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED EN-
VELOPE TO: SEXAF c/o TIM • 626 E. JOHNSON
X X X MAD. WI. 53703

Blackout



Photo: John Xistance



Photo: John Xistance

mean season

X: Lets start the interview with who Mean Season is, your ages, and what you play.

Colin: Aaron Kelly-Vocals, 18, Brian Manry-Guitar, 19, Colin Buis-Bass, 17, Travis Guichard-Guitar, 21, Mike Vo-Drums,20

X: How did Mean Season start? Did you guys have a lot of line up changes?

Aaron: Mean Season started about two years ago from the ashes of another band. We had a lot of line up changes, but by the end we stuck with the line up on the 7". In fact Brian played drums on the 7" and Travis was the main guitarist.

X: So how did you guys meet Mike H. and get onto New Age Records?

Aaron: We were recording and he happened to stop by. We were friends before and I guess he just liked it and wanted to put it out.

X: Has Mike and New Age Records treated you guys well, and taken care of you on the tours?

Aaron: Mike is one of the greatest guys to work with. He does a lot for all New Age bands, and takes care of us well. He bought us all new stacks, drums, and guitars.

X: Are you guys aware of the complaints about Mike's mail order being very slow and some kids sometimes not getting their stuff for months?

Aaron: Yes we are aware of the complaints, but you got to understand Mike has another job and sometimes people will order something he might be out of. Mike gets a lot of mail and does his best.

X: Is there anything new from Mean Season that will be released anytime new? Will it still be on New Age or some other label?



PHOTO: Chad ForeGO Fanzine

Colin: We are putting the final touches on our new songs for the LP. Which will definitely be on New Age.

X: Are any of you Vegetarian or Vegan?

brian narry

Colin: Everyone in Mean Season is vegetarian except Mike Vo eats meat still, and I'm vegan.

X: Since some of you guys are Vegetarian and Vegan, what is your reaction to all the animal rights issues being brought up in hardcore today?

Colin: I think that the fact that people feel so strongly about animal's rights the way they do is rad. As far as violence against a human in the name of another living or murdered animal is senseless. It's like we are all caught up in this mess and all we know how to do is make it worse.

X: So do you believe in direct action, or not?

Aaron: Yes, I believe in direct action. I would take direct action on any form of creature if they were harmed.

X: What do you think about Straight Edge and being labeled Straight Edge?

Colin: Straight Edge is rad if you don't let it get to your head, I mean I'm straight edge but if someone else isn't I could handle the shock.

X: When one of you writes lyrics, what goes through your head?

Colin: I don't write any of the bands lyrics, and I have only written a handful of songs since I've been in the band. The songs I have written for Mean Season have been inspired by my pain and anger for lost friends, and screwed up relationships. Like when I'm playing on stage I try to imagine my bass is the person that ripped my heart out and wears it around her neck. I usually bash the shit out of it.

X: What do you guys think of homosexuality, a lot of bands have made the opinions heard about this issue, what is yours?

Aaron: Homosexuality is just another form of love. An expression between two genders.



X: It seems as though hardcore is constantly touching on moral questions. Bands like Earth Crisis and Vegan Reich have made the music moral issue oriented. What do you guys think of abortion?

Colin: Abortion is a touchy subject, it's not a black and white issue. As far as if someone gets raped, or something like that I totally think she has a right to get rid of that memory if she wants to. On the other hand if abortion is used as a form of birth control I think that sucks. If a person is responsible enough to spread her legs and take that chance then she should be able to dish it out. That goes for the guy and the girl.

mean season

X: I saw a lot of pictures of Mean Season in fanzines that were at Dayton. So what did you guys think about this music feast. Do you think it will happen annually?

Aaron: The music festival was one of the greatest ideas ever. Hopefully more bands can participate and this will go on annually.

X: I have read that some of the members of Mean Season are also in Outspoken. Does this at all conflict with Mean Season?

Colin: Travis is the only member that is in Outspoken, and no it doesn't conflict at all with Mean Season.

X: How was your summer tour? What was the best show you guys did, and what did you think of Milwaukee?

Colin: New York was by far the best show, which wasn't real surprising. Milwaukee was a shock. I walk into the club expecting another shit show, but when we started playing people just went fucking nuts. It made me feel really good.

X: With this newly elected president in office do you think we will see any big changes in our lives?

Aaron: The state of our country is still in turmoil. A president can not turn everything around. A revolution will, both physically and mentally.

X: If you could change anything in this world what would it be?

Aaron: I wouldn't change anything because man built this shitty world and let him suffer

X: Is there anything else you would like to say?

Aaron: Thank you John Drefahl.

NEW AGE RECORDS MAIL ORDER INFO...

Turning Point "it's always darkest before the dawn lp/cass/cd

Outspoken "survival" ep 7

Up Front "daybreak" ep 7 or cass

"Words to live by. words to die for" comp. ep 7 feat. Turning Point,

Outspoken, Drift Again, Mouthpiece, and more...

Mouthpiece ep 7 or cass

Lifetime ep 7 or cass (cass has extra track)

Ressurrection ep 7 or cass

Strife "my fire burns on" ep 7 or cass

Unbroken "you won't be back" ep 7 or cass

Outspoken "a light in the dark" lp/cass/cd

Mean Season "bleed to me" ep 7 or cass

Lifetime "background" lp/cass/cd

Unbroken "deception within" lp/cass/cd

Ressurrection "build" lp/cass/cd

Grip "friction, burn, fatal..." ep 7 or cass

record, cass & cd prices:

7 ep or cassette prices \$3.50 ppd

lp's or cassettes are \$8 ppd

Shirts available for: Turning Point, Outspoken, Up Front, Mouthpiece, Lifetime, Ressurrection, Strife, Unbroken, Grip and New Age vege, sxe or jus' plain logo. All shirts are XL only.

T's \$9, Long slv \$12, sweat shirt \$14, hoods \$18

Posters: Out, LT, Ress or Unb 24x36 \$3.

Mean or Unb 18x24 \$2

Stickers 3 for a buck

Canada and Mexico add \$.50 for every 7 or cass \$1 per cd and \$2 per lp or shirt. Japan add \$1.50 for 7, cass or posters. For lp or t add \$7 for the 1st \$4 for each additional one. Cd's add \$3 each. Europe add \$1 for 7, cass or poster, for lp or t's add \$5 for the first and \$3 for each additional. Cd's add \$3 ea.

always include a stamp for more info.

NEW AGE RECORDS

P.O. Box 5213

Huntington Beach, Ca, 92615

X STORMTROOPER X

STRAIGHTEDGE FANZINE

ISSUE XXX

PURE STRAIGHTEDGE FROM START
TO FINISH

MUTTSPOKEN

Chokehold SHORTSIGHT

\$2PPD \$5 OVERSEAS

"I FIND YOUR LACK OF FAITH
DISTURBING" LORD VADER

Also opinions, photos, and chats with
Chicago zine editors

P.O. BOX 756, WESTMONT, IL 60559

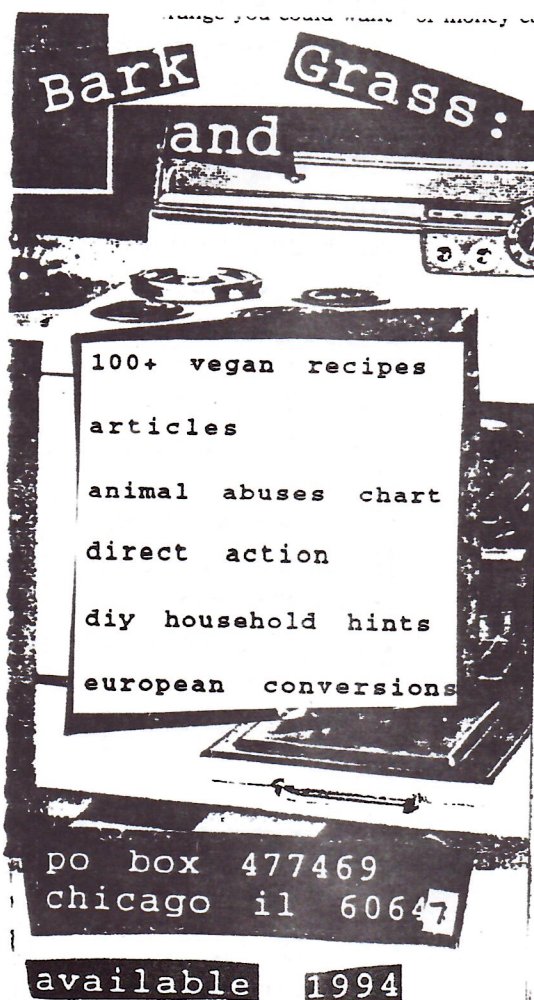


X STORMTROOPER X

ADEN... OUT IN D...
... to:
... Jordan Baker

\$3 ppd.

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60195



Bark and Grass:

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articles
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european conversions

po box 477469
chicago il 60647

available 1994

IEWS .. REVIEWS .. REVIEWS

Burn it Down #0 FREE

P.O. box 756, Westmont, IL 60559

I got this pilot zine at a show about a year ago. Just thought I would review it. Over all for a first zine it was cool, and who cares, it was FREE. Interview with Endpoint, some show reviews, and of course the Tony Brummel rips are frequent and many.

Burn it Down #2 \$1.00

P.O. box 756, Westmont, IL 60559

This is the latest of Frank's creations. This zine is straight to the point. The layout is unique, and the interviews are original. If you hate Tony Brummel get this one, the cover is the best. The pictures are great for this pure cut and paste job. Includes personal opinions on GRRLxEDGE, family alcoholism, and interviews with Bloodline and Denmark StraightxEdge.

StormTrooper #1 \$1.00

P.O. box 756, Westmont, IL 60559

Jim has really outdone himself on this one. This baby is thick and full of really cool Star Wars shit. Interviews with Strife, Endure, and Full Contact. A real good XXX opinion on every page. Believe me, you won't put this down.

SnakeEyes #1 \$1.00

New Address... Not know at time of printing

Rick Bourbonais

Chad Bowen

Brian Lund shows us all the true side of straightedge when one is confronted with college. This zine was done out of boredom at Marquette University, but overall it fits in with the rest of the Chi-Town zines. Full of pictures from the "Brian Lund Archives" with interviews from Endpoint, Bloodline, Split Lip, and Resurrection.

SnakeEyes #2 \$1.00

New Address... Not know at time of printing

Brian has continued his wrath of hate.. nah just put out another great zine. Interviews with No For An Answer, Mean Season, and I think Snapcase. Check this one out.

Fore Go! #2 \$1.00?

1624 Island View Ct., Hoffman Estates, IL 60559

“ My mouth,

This is a nice zine! Chad out did himself with this one. Great layout and seems to be professionally done. This zine will never die in my mind. Good interviews with Intact (Cornerstone), Mean Season, ISKCON, and more. Pictures are outstanding too. Great Earth Crisis spread. ”

Stability #4 \$2.50

665 Pioneer Pass, Valparaiso, IN 46383

“ walk, we go to school.

John Knetzke ”

This is Iain's zine, yeah you know that guy that is at EVERY mid-west show! I first met Iain in Earwaves in Milwaukee when he was on #2, now he is on #4 and is doing records. He must be doing something right! Interviews with Shelter, 108, Engine, Burst of Silence, Current, and None Left Standing.

Class ”

Cloudbreak #2 \$1.00

P.O. Box 3053 Springfield, Mo 65808

I paged through this zine at my friends house. I can't give you much info on it, but it looked cool. Nice art and stuff.

Even The Score #2 \$2.00

P.O. Box 8826, Columbia, SC 29202

Damato

Bryan Davis

Dana Dehing

This zine is great, I had a pure feeling of straightedge revenge after checking this one out. Lots of personal writings, lots of pictures, and a whole lot of bitching about New Start. Interviews with Earth Crisis, Chokehold, and Edgewise. I can't wait for number 3.

Eric

June Debes

Nicole Domagala

Lecky Dorr

John Gifford

Brad Easer

Scott

Conviction Fanzine #2 \$2.00

124 Harvard Pl., Syracuse, NY 13210

Guav out did himself here. Great layout and a professional layout. Has cool rare pictures of bands like Raid. Lots of Syracuse style vegan talk. Hell, lets just kill everybody! Lots of personal opinions to respect. ”

Dead Serious #? \$1.00?

Address Not Known at Time of Printing

“Thank god I'm not blond
bec”

I found this zine on the floor during a Snapcase show. Half of it was ripped up so I will do my best to summarize it. Overall this zine is funny as hell. I have never seen so many KISS pictures in one zine. Interviews with Brian "SnakeEyes" Lund and I have no idea who else.

Persist #2 \$1.00

P.O. box 756, Westmont, IL 60559

Jeff Johns is a real nice guy, and he has a really nice zine. Nicely done, and is full of info. Interviews with Endpoint, Ressurrection, Silence, and unpublished Youth of Today interview. Number 3 is out so get this one while it lasts.

HARD AT WORK. "Back off! I'm busy!" warns Paul Kokta as Trina Gentile admires his craftsmanship.

"GRRR, I AM IRON MAN." Joe Brazovar shows off what he someday hopes to have.

Release #1 \$2.00?

Some Where In Madison

Joe is probably the most active guy in our scene. He is the guy that sets up the shows. So I got to say he is swell. His zine is nicely computerized. Really good pictures but half of the zine is different then the other half?!? Anyways, I think the interviews make up for it. He talks with Earth Crisis, Mouthpiece, and more. Be sure to pick this one up at the next show.



Kevin Fox

Dely Fress

Iori Gaskill

Trina Gentile

Alicia Goldich

Natalie Greenwald

Aaron Haas



Shadows and Tall Trees #1 \$1.50

63 W. Bridge St., Oswego, NY 13126

This is a zine I didn't like. Cause I never got it. I hate people that rip you off. Enough said..

114 SOPHOMORES

Straight Edge, As of Now...

As I sit back and listen to my old Youth of Today, Gorilla Biscuits, and other NYC hardcore bands I seem to be only able to relate to their music slightly. I often think about and question the whole reason why I am Straight Edge and so damn fucking proud to be Straight Edge. Why is it that when anyone thinks of sXe the first thing that comes to one's mind always seems to be Ray Cappo on stage jumping around yelling "Me, you, youth....CREW!" and not looking at the present status of our society and then making a judgement. I am not a fucking kid who is into the scene just for the kicks, everyday I look around and see most or all of our problems rooted in the excessive use of drugs. Be it college kids drinking, drunken husbands beating up their wives, intoxicated drivers threatening and killing thousands on the roads, drunk ass gangsters doing drive by's, this list is endless! In a society that constantly promotes the use of intoxicating substances I feel like a poster child for a better way. Though I may seem non threatening to myself, it seems that people are scared of me and my purity. Why, when it can be attained by each and everyone of us is it so threatening to them! Is the thought of progression such a bad idea, or are they scared of themselves? Too scared to look themselves in the eye and confront their conditioning. I stand true this statement that they are scared! Scared of what lies ahead... Scared of the Straight Edge...

Silence - Photo: John

XLEGION OF DOOM STRAIGHTEDGE

PERIODICAL

THOUGHTS AND WRITINGS ON STRAIGHTEDGE

ISSUE #1 \$1.00

XLEGION OF DOOMX

c/o BRIAN RYDER

16801 S. 92nd Ave.

ORLAND HILLS, IL 60477

I can use photos, interviews, etc. for #2.

Look for Undertow, Falling Forward, and possibly Restrain in #2.

IT'S EC

mouthpiece-"abandon"
flagman-"to reflect"
mean season-"stationary"
ressurrection-"why"



A STRAIGHT ED

RELIFE

strife-"am i the only one?"
lifetime-"up"
unbroken-"unheard"
reveal-"submerged"

this record is : \$6 us/\$8 canada/ \$11 elsewhere to:
CONSEQUENCE
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GE COM P LATION

STARWARS RETURN OF JEDI

Girl Edge and All The Other PC Stuff..

While paging through a fanzine, I think it was **Burn It Down #2**, and glancing through the articles one in particular caught my eye. The title of the piece was "Girl Germs" as I read through it I was some what feeling bad for the girls in the hardcore scene, but after further thinking about the topic I began to change my mind and rather then pity to girls, I started to encourage them. I will explain what this means after I get done bitching about something along the lines of this title.

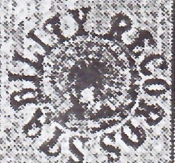
What I mean by encouraging is trying to get girls to feel possitive about being straightedge and in the hardcore scene. I believe girls should not be in the scene cause their boyfriends are! If they don't like the music then the hell with the girl! This goes for the guys too! I am sick of seeing this sexism shit in all the zines. The bitching and moning about how people, girls and boys, can't enjoy the show cause they are always being hit on and how it is impossible to watch shows cause the so called bad males dance to hard. It is true that males have started to dance a bit harder then usual but the fact that I am 6'1" and 140 pounds and get my skinny vegetarian ass kicked all over the dance floor doesn't inhibit me from seeing and enjoying the show. Plus, I am not saying only males dance, I see females up front all the time fucking shit up. The fact is true and still remains, hardcore isn't for the weak. You must take alittle to enjoy it.

My main suggestion to the girls in the scene is that if you want to be equal you got to fight to be equal. You won't achieve shit by just speaking up for yourselfs you got to make the situation right for yourselves, and the only way to do this is through direct action. If you want a piece of the scene like the guys all seem to have you have to try doing what all the guys have done. The only reason why the males seem to rule the hardcore scene is because they have the numbers. Like I have done with my guy friends, you have to get some of your girl friends in the scene. Get a crew and show up in force at the next show. I mean if you just put your all into your scene you will get great girl scene in return. Guys will then not fuck with you and write you off, instead they will probably respect you and your friends. I know it sucks. Why should you have to live up to someone else's expectations! Well I know it sucks, but all of us guys have had to do it when we were the new school kids with our Youth of Today shirts. You just have to get involved and things will become a lot easier. Then again I am not a girl and this could absolutly mean shit, but I encourage all females to get into your scene and fuck shit up.

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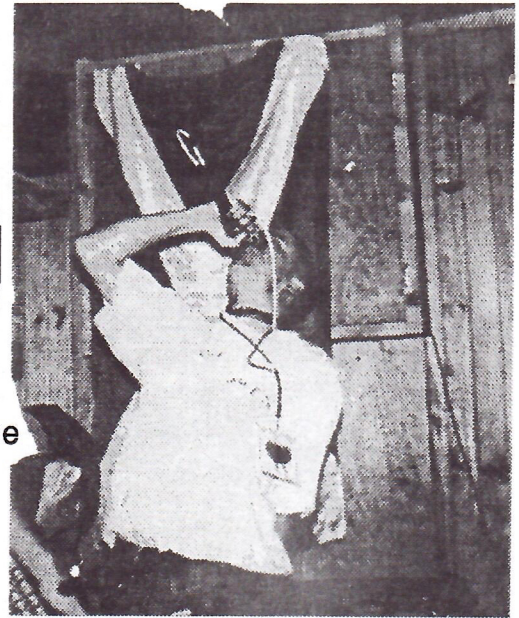
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THE STRAIGHT EDGE

TODD LEMOINE

equality x fanzine

INTERVIEW

X: Okay, lets start out with who is in EVERLAST.
Jody: Okay, ah it's me, Jody Minnoch, and I sing. Brian Ryder plays drums. Dan Binael plays drum, Adam Bishop plays guitar, and Ghran Booth plays bass.

X: How did EVERLAST start, and were there any bands before it?

Jody: Um, Dan and Ghran were both in Superfly 70, and Brian was in Solitaire. Me, Brian, and Adam were all in Endure, and that is about all for previous bands. We started awhile back about a year ago with a different drummer. Adam and Brian were not in it then. We didn't like the way it was going at the time so we decided to break up. Then we reformed at the beginning of last summer with Brian playing drums, then we played our first show and we adopted Adam. We were all friends with him before so we asked him to join.

X: I saw you guys have a new seven inch coming out on chapter records. How did you guys get signed to the label?

Jody: Um, welp, We kinda got hooked up with Frank, he does Fade In mail, and now is doing Chapter. Ghran was corresponding with him by mail orders. He sent Frank the demo and Frank liked it and asked us if we would like to put something out by him. We were like, "That sounds good." Right now we're in the process of writing everything for it. We are getting close, and then we are going to record. The record should be out in a couple months.

X: How did the demo go off, was it pretty good?

Jody: Yeah, actually it was a lot of fun recording it and everything. I think it came out pretty well, and we are all like really happy with it. There is like some stuff, it sounds somewhat spacy for some reason. Other than that we are all really happy with it.

X: How many were made? Quite a few?

Jody: I think 200.

X: I have noticed a lot of people, and bands from the Chicago area expressing their hate for Victory. There have been calls to boycott Tony and his records. Do you categorize your band like this?

Jody: Well, I have never really talked to Tony, and none of us really don't know Tony. A lot of the people who don't like Tony have been friends with Tony for years. I guess what happened was that Tony got to the point where he was so cool or something and tried to rule the world. So I guess he just started to act like an ass to everybody. This is the story that I have heard anyway. The whole thing about him drinking came up, and everyone said that was the last straw and everyone was like fuck him. He expected everyone to just take him back, and I guess not everyone was to hip to that.

(Laughter)
X: Has he ever shown interest in your band, like in signing you or anything?

Jody: The only thing I ever heard was that he was thinking of putting a Chicago band on Victory. The most I have heard that he as every said about EVERLAST is "Oh aren't they on Chapter Records?"

(Laughter)



X: Do you guys take a stand on any of the issues that are being brought up in hardcore today. As I remember back in the old NYC days bands sang about friendship and drugs, but now it seems that band's like Earth Crisis are bringing in much more moral arguments into hardcore. Does your band take any stances like that?

Jody: Pretty much what it is lyrically it depends what strikes me enough to get me to write about. We have songs about racism and stuff which is a big problem. We don't center our attention on one specific subject. Earth Crisis on the otherhand is a vegan band and everyone knows it. That is their angle. With us it is whatever gets our attention more.

X: So what ever strikes you the most is what you write about.

Jody: It mostly anger.

X: You don't have one point to zero in on.

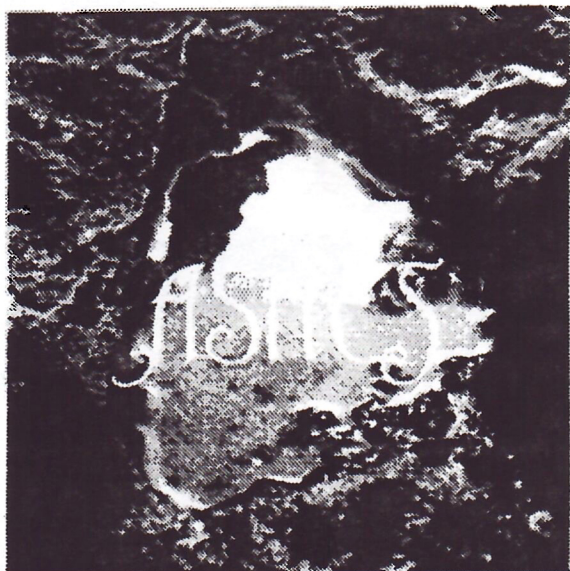
Jody: No, No, I mean like, it is basically it extends from anger and frustration.

X: Are any of your band members in other bands at this time?

Jody: I am in Cornerstone, and play guitar. Adam has a band called Shroud. I think Ghran is starting up Endure again with Jeff Johns. I don't how that is going to work, we will have to see about that. (Laughter)

X: How do feel the scene in Chicago is going. What I have seen, it is better then Milwaukee's. At the last EVERLAST show I saw a lot of new straightedge kids there that were pretty young.

Jody: Well, there is totally a lot of kids out here getting in straightedge which is cool, but on the otherhand not. Me, for example, I am not always ready to accept, but when I first got into it I wasn't accepted either at first. Overall it is really good. There hasn't been a lot of shows though cause we can't find any place to put them



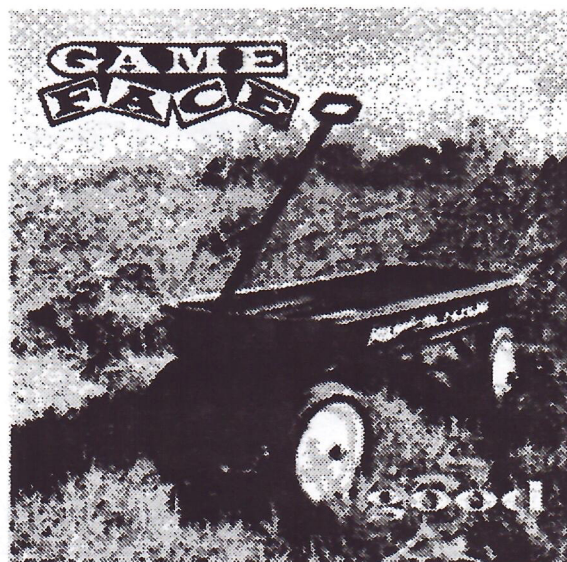
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on. Other than that, it is going really well. Everyone is hanging out with each other now. That is a big change cause that never use to happen. X: I kinda know what you mean, cause when EVERLAST and Drown came to play in Milwaukee it seemed that some different people showed up for each of the bands.

Jody: Yeah.

X: I guess that is because Chicago is pretty big. Isn't Evenstan on the north side?

Jody: Yeah, I live maybe like 10 minutes away from Ghran and Dan, Brian lives about 45 to an hour from us, and Adam lives like 2 hours from us. So it is really hard to practice.

X: So do you guys practice a lot?

Jody: No, we haven't practiced in a month. We practice once in a great while. That is another thing that is holding this record from getting out. We mostly practice at Ghran's house because we can practice above his garage. It is just a total pain in the ass.

X: But, you guys do find time to do it right?

Jody: Yeah, nahh ewww (Laughter).

X: With the practicing being so little to you guys think you will stay together?

Jody: Yeah, we will stay together, it is just that when school comes up I think we will go through some tougher times with keeping the band together, but right now there doesn't seem to be any thoughts of breaking up. We just don't get to practice.

X: So are you guys all in high school now?

Jody: Me, Ghran, and Brian are still in high school.

X: There has been thought of hardcore becoming main stream with bands like Rage Against the Machine and Quicksand becoming popular. Do think this is going to happen or is it just a worry?

Jody: It has kinda bothered me, and I can see it happen, but I can never see Earth Crisis being on MTV.

X: Do you think it would be bad?

Jody: I think it would be totally bad. The way I see it anyways is that straightedge should stay underground. As it is, there is plenty of hardcore bands, ex-straightedge bands that are doing other things and making hardcore more known. Hopefully it will die out except for the truly dedicated bands and people. Else this is the end the progression.

X: What did you think about the More Than Music Festival?

Jody: It gave a lot of people something rad to remember.

X: Did you go?

Jody: Yeah, it was totally fun. It was the radest thing. The fact that Frank was able to pull that together. If someone would be able to do that ever year it would keep hardcore together.

X: Yeah, am waiting for announcement for this year'. Cause if their is I am taking off!

(laughter)

Jody: Yeah, No kidding, I am totally looking forward to it happening.

X: I hope it does.

Jody: Yeah, there is definitely talk about it. I think it is beyond that planing stages.

X: I heard it might be in Syracuse though.

Jody: Ewwe..

X: Yeah, that is a 8 hour drive versus a 6 hour drive.

Jody: Yeah, that is quite a haul, but ohh well. (Laughter)

X: Are any of you guys vegetarian or vegan?

Jody: Yeah, everyone in the band is vegetarian, I think Adam was trying to go vegan. Definitely, everyone in the band is for animal rights. I am working on going vegan, but it is really hard because I don't live on my own.

X: I am in the same situation.

Jody: Yeah, I can't go out and buy my own groceries. Hopefully someday though.

X: When I went to the Chicago Shelter show I noticed that after the show I saw a lot of kids gathering around Ray like he was the hardcore god. What do you think about Krishna and the use of Shelter to gain members?

Jody: Personally, I agree with a lot of the philosophies behind Krishna, but it is such a fucking trap. If you go to a Shelter show you will have like 10 Krishna's their trying to recruit members by winning them over with free food and shit. I remember when Earth Crisis played, and all these Krishna guys came. One of the guys previous to becoming Krishna was some Greatful Dead loser, but anyways he came wearing a Shelter shirt. Mani asked him if he liked Shelter. He said, "I thought people would like him more if he wore this shirt." All it is, is an excuse to preach. It is a trap, anyone that seriously gets involved with it has definitely overstepped his bounds. It contradicts itself all to hell. I guess when Shelter is on tour they stay in expensive hotels. It just such fucking load of bullshit. If they are so anti-materialistic, why they making a shit load of

STRAIGHT

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money off it?

X: What do you guys think of hardline?

Jody: The thing is that I have never had contact with anyone in hardline so I don't feel I can judge. I agree with everything except the homophobic thing, and I think they take the violence part of it to far, but I have heard that the violence is just rumors.

X: what do guys expect for shows this summer?

Jody: I think most of our shows will end up in Wisconsin. So far we haven't been able to find anywhere to hold shows repeatedly.

X: Does touring every come to mind?

Jody: Actually, we were suppose to tour this winter break with Chokehold in Canada and New Jersey and stuff. This summer we will probably tour and go out east.

X: You guys label yourself straightedge, but how do you view straightedge personally.

Jody: I am mainly straightedge for myself. I don't like to preach about it. I do though, like to express my point of view. We all pretty much view it as doing it for yourself. Also, I use to not think animal rights wasn't about it, but that is slowly changing in me.

X: Anything last you would like to say before I end this interview?

Jody: I would like to thank the Chicago Crew, thanks to you for the interview, and everyone that we hang out with.

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